

REMARKS*Status of the Claims*

Claims 1-25 were in the application as filed.

Restriction to one of the sets of claims (a) 1-21 or (b) 22-25 was required by Examiner. In a telephone conversation with Samuel H. Dworetsky, attorney for applicants, on December 6, 2004, set (b) – claims 22-25 - was provisionally elected. This election to proceed with examination of claims 22-25 has been previously affirmed. Applicants have filed claims 1-21 in a divisional application Serial No. 11/280931, filed November 16, 2006.

This preliminary amendment is filed with a RCE and adds new claims 26 and 27.

Claims 22-27, as presently amended, remain in the application.

*Arguments in support of patentability of
claims remaining in the application*

Applicants respectfully request entry of the response, including amendments to claims 22-24, filed after final rejection in the present application.

Applicants' new claims 26 and 27 depend from claim 22 and so include all of the limitations of claim 22. Claims 26 and 27 are therefore patentable for the same reasons submitted on behalf of claim 22 in the response filed after final rejection.

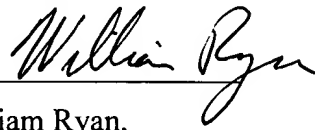
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22-25 remaining in the application, as presently amended, overcome or avoid all bases for rejection or objection and are allowable. It is requested that all claims be further examined, found allowable and passed to issue.

Please address all correspondence to: Samuel H. Dworetsky, Esq., AT&T, P.O. Box 4110, Middletown, NJ 07748. Applicant's attorney can be reached at (908) 464-6602.

Respectfully,

Y. Chen
M.J. Foladare
S.B. Goldman
T. Killian
N.L. Schryer
K. Stone
R.P. Weber

By 

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William Ryan,

Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,434
(908) 464-6602